

Response to Inquest Finding of Darren Fielding

Your Ref: COR 2018 002478

Set out below is Correct Care Australasia's response to the recommendations made by Coroner Peterson pursuant to Section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008 and as set out in the Finding into Death following Inquest. Relevant to these recommendations, Correct Care no longer delivers primary health services into the public prisons in Victoria. Correct Care currently only delivers primary health services at Ravenhall Correctional Centre (RCC).

- i. **That Correct Care Australasia review its Controlled Substances Management Policy and ensure that the policy provides a clearly articulated procedure for the preparation, labelling and storage of Imprest stock, including in particular, a direction that the Imprest stock bottle should be weighed and the details of the running weight recorded between each dose being drawn from the Imprest stock bottle.**

Correct Care has reviewed the use of Imprest Methadone at RCC. When a dose of Methadone is required to be administered, the Methadone delivery system (iDose) is used at RCC predominantly instead of Imprest stock.

When Imprest Methadone stock is required to be used, pre-dispensed, sealed bottles from the contracted pharmacy provider of 100mg, 50mg, 20mg, 10mg, 5mg and 2.5mg are available. Predominantly using Imprest stock will occur when administering to patients going to court in the early morning and the iDose system is not working, or the nursing staff are not familiar or confident using the iDose system (for example agency staff).

The management of the pre-prepared bottles and the administration of the prescribed dose will be as per the relevant sections of Correct Care policies *CS13.5 Controlled Substances Management* and *CS12.3 Opioid Substitution Therapy Program*. Both policies have been reviewed to include this direction but they have not yet been finalised. They are in the final stages of review before being endorsed by the executive of CCA. Once endorsed, all staff at RCC will be informed of the changes to both policies and instructed to read the policy by the Health Services Manager.

- ii. **That Correct Care Australasia provide instruction to relevant staff of the importance of maintaining accurate records in relation to Schedule 8 medications and, specifically, that any spill must be contemporaneously recorded, that times entered in relevant registers must be accurate, and that any errors made must be amended in compliance with policy requirements.**

Correct Care policy *CS13.5 Controlled Substances Management* and *CS12.3 Opioid Substitution Therapy Program* has been reviewed to provide instruction and support staff in maintaining accurate and legible Controlled Substances Registers. The new

policies also include instruction on when a dose is spilt or a patient refuses their dose. As per above, once they are finalised and endorsed, all staff at RCC will be informed of the changes to both policies and instructed to read the policy by the Health Services Manager.